

JUN 23 1958

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200

STATINTL

MURROW DISCUSSES FORMAT OF CIA REPORT

Howard R. Murrow at 7:45 p.m. over WCBS (N.Y.) and CBS Radio Network:

"The reports of the Central Intelligence Agency hereafter are to be abbreviated, classified, put in headline style and buttressed by maps with red arrows so that policy makers will take the trouble to read them. This is the outcome of a complaint that Allen Dulles, head of the CIA, made at a recent meeting of the National Security Council, according to Warren E. Hahn in today's Washington Post. He says that Mr. Dulles told President Eisenhower that there was little use in having a mammoth government agency devote its full energies to an appraisal of foreign intelligence if the government policy makers ignored its findings.

"This, the Post reporter says, annoyed Mr. Eisenhower, and he retorted that the CIA reports were far too ponderous to read. He said that they should include maps of the areas under discussion with red arrows pointing to strategic spots and be made up of headline summaries, and much briefer text discussions. If that was done, he promised Mr. Dulles that he would order the 20 to 30 top policy makers in the Administration to read them.

"The White House today confirmed that the CIA reports are coming in a different format but denied that the President had ordered it or that it was done to make them easier for the President to read. It said that Mr. Dulles had ordered the change and that the President had approved.

"Rather more lies behind this story than meets the eye. The country still is feeling the shock of the Sputnik and the discovery that the Russians are ahead of us in some fields of science, technology and education.

"An obvious question is, how the Government could have been taken by surprise if the CIA knew its business? Allen Dulles is reported to have told a closed session of the Senate Preparedness Committee that Russian advances in missile and satellite techniques had long been predicted in the CIA's daily intelligence summaries.

"How well it dramatized this information or how strikingly it predicted the effect on American and world opinion of the launching of a satellite is, of course, not known but there is no doubt that many individuals in and outside the armed services knew about Soviet progress in rocketry and certainly many knew about the remarkable expansion of the Soviet educational system which is certainly not classified information.

"The CIA was the source of both kinds of intelligence. So it appears that if there was a failure it was a failure to grasp the implication of information and not the lack of information. If the Washington Post story is correct, Mr. Allen Dulles felt that the failure was the fault of the policy makers. The President believed it was in the way the information was presented.

"Mr. Eisenhower himself receives a daily report of the CIA every morning brought under armed guard by his staff secretary Brigadier General Andrew Goodpastor. As a commander in chief he was accustomed to brief and terse analysis, to maps and their red arrows. As President, he will find the CIA reports on his desk in that guise.

"It is a common complaint of all high officials in Washington that they're much too busy to read all the papers that flow across their desks even the important ones.

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000200540044-1